



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

DERRY MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL "CRACK" DISTRIBUTION CHARGES

Re: United States v. Ronald DESIR

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, and N.H. Attorney General Peter Heed announced that RONALD DESIR, DOB 10/29/64, of Haverhill, MA and Derry, NH, was sentenced on "crack" cocaine distribution charges.

On June 5, 2003, a federal grand jury returned a four-count indictment against DESIR, also known as "Ronald Williams," charging him with Possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, also known as "crack," and Attempted Possession with intent to distribute "crack" during January, 2003. An affidavit filed with a Criminal Complaint against DESIR issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead alleged that DESIR repeatedly sold crack cocaine to an undercover informant in Derry during that period. On September 26, 2003, DESIR entered a guilty plea, before District Judge Paul Barbadoro, to Counts 1 through 3 of the indictment.

At today's sentencing, Judge Barbadoro imposed a sentence of 70 months imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which DESIR's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, especially those operating in the southern tier of our state. This cooperative effort between the DEA and the N.H Drug Task Force is a prime example of the effectiveness of New England HIDTA, and the Northern New England HIDTA Task Force. I will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The arrest resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the DEA's Northern New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force and the N.H. Attorney General's Drug Task Force. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").